

18 SEP 1944

1740.

## TOWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1943

Gentlemen,

I am submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Towyn Urban Area for the Year ended 31st December 1943.

During the year, in spite of War conditions such as the rationing of food, black-out, fastened windows at night, intensification of toil due to A.R.P., Home Guard and other services, and the influx of a large number of evacuees, the area has remained remarkably free from epidemic.

HOUSING

As a temporary measure, several of the condemned houses in the area have been rendered habitable, affording shelter to a large number of families who have been bombed out of their homes.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Condition of the Area

Area (in acres) .....	22,959
Population(1931) Census .....	3,002
Number of inhabited houses (and of 1941) according to Rate Books .....	1,138
Rateable Value.. .....	£18,743
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate .....	£70

The area is chiefly agricultural, and there is no industry liable to affect the public health. There are slate quarries outside the Urban Area affording employment to workmen from this area. The unemployed workmen were fully occupied during the year at various camps situated in the area.

The Urban area includes Towyn, Aberdovey, and the villages of Brynchrug, Rhydyronen and Cwrt, near Fennal.

There was a large influx of visitors during the year to this area, Hotels, Boarding houses and farms were crowded during the season.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1943Live Births

Legitimate	Males - 19	Females - 30	Total - 49
Illegitimate	Male - 5	Female - 5	Total - 10

Still Births

Illegitimate	Female - 0	Male - 2	Total - 2
Legitimate	Female - 2	Male - 0	Total - 2
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	13.92		
Still Birth rate per 1,000 - ditto -	.94		
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	14.3		

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1943 (Continued)

Deaths

Males - 27	Females - 34	Total - 61
Maternal deaths from puerperal causes (No. 30).....	0	
Infant mortality per 1,000 (Live and still births).....	0	
Deaths of infants under one year of age.....	3	
Deaths from Cancer Males - 3 Females - 5 Total - 8		
Cancer Death rate per 1,000 of the population ..	1.8	
Deaths from Measles.....	0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....	0	
Deaths from Diarrhoea.....	0	
Deaths from Nephritis.....	3	
Deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thromboses....	9	
Deaths from Influenza.....	0	

Comparison of Vital Statistics for Five Years:

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>
Birth Rate	9.10	8.22	8.35	12.58	13.92
Death Rate	14.56	16.67	15.86	11.68	14.3

SECTION B: General Provision of Health Service for the AreaPUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS. One Medical Officer (part-time).

One Sanitary Inspector (part-time) who also acts as Surveyor to the Council.

NURSING One District Nurse at Towyn and one at Aberdovey

They attend maternity, surgical and medical cases.

They also act as Health Visitors under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

LABORATORY FACILITIES: Pathological specimens were sent to the Clinical Laboratory, Aberystwyth, and also throat swabs. Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept in stock and supplied to the local practitioners when required.

HOSPITALS: v Isolation Hospitals.....Nil  
Small Pox Hospitals.....Nil  
County Isolation Hospitals.....Yes, temporary at Corwen.



SECTION B      General Provision of Health Service for the Area. (Continued)

MATERNITY SERVICES      Maternity Wing of the Towyn and District Cottage Hospital, opened in 1933, consisting of 6 maternity beds, delivery ward with modern equipment, is of inestimable value to the district. Number of cases admitted during the year....73

Hospitals for children and orthopaedics - Nil

Orthopaedic Clinics are held periodically in the County, and suitable cases can be admitted to Gobowen, Oswestry, through the County Orthopaedic Committee.

A War Memorial Cottage Hospital at Towyn supplies the needs of the area, consisting of 20 beds and 2 children's cots for the surgical, medical and maternity cases. Fully trained staff and a portable X-ray equipment. Now serves as an E.M.S. Hospital.

AMBULANCE      A Motor ambulance, maintained and provided by the Towyn hospital Committee, is available for conveying non-infectious cases to and from the Hospital. It is also available to the public during emergencies.

CLINICS:      A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is maintained by a grant from the Merioneth County Council. This Centre is supervised by the local practitioners in rotation. The attendance of infants is good. The Clinic is held fortnightly. The District Nurses attend; and voluntary helpers provide tea, etc. A limited amount of Vicol and Milk is available for backward infants.

SCHOOL CLINICS:      For treatment of eyes, tonsils and adenoids held periodically at the Local Hospital; provided by the County Council.

MIDWIVES.      Nil

Midwifery is undertaken by the two District Nurses who are qualified for this work.

SECTION C:      Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Towyn      The Towyn Water Supply Chlorination plant gives satisfaction. There was no shortage during the year.

Aberdovey      The Aberdovey Water supply Chlorination plant gives satisfaction. There was no shortage during the year.

Bryncrug Village:      Supplied from the Towyn mains. There are a few farms and houses in the vicinity of Bryncrug without an adequate water supply. The occupiers have to draw water from the adjoining brook which is contaminated by sewage from several farms. I have repeatedly urged the Council to remedy this defect and to connect them to the Towyn mains which are within easy reach. this is very urgent.

Cwrt Village, near Fennal.      Public water supply is good.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Towyn.      Water carriage to the sea. A few houses are still unconnected with the main sewer.

Aberdovey.      Water carriage to the Dovey Estuary. Most houses are connected with the main sewer. The sewer outlet is now working satisfactorily.

Drainage and Sewerage. (Continued)

Bryncrug Village: Refuse and closet pails are conveyed to a field adjoining the village.

Cwrt Village, near Pennal: Refuse and closet pails are collected once a week, and deposited on land at a suitable distance from the village.

Rivers and Streams.

Bryncrug brook is contaminated by sewage from several farms, which is unavoidable. Owing to the danger, the adjacent farms should be connected with the Towyn main supply.

Closet Accommodation.

Bryncrug and Cwrt Villages: Pail Closets.

Number of Water Closets in the area .. .. 976

Number of pail closets.. .. 162

New Water Closets.. .. 0

Shops

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none in the Area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Nil

Special Classes of Premises.

There are no common lodging houses for casuals in the area. No permanent tents or vans and underground sleeping rooms.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1920.

There are no premises in the area.

Schools

Sanitation is good.

Towyn and Aberdovey Schools are supplied with good water from the respective mains.

Pennal School : Supplied with good water by the Pennal Parish Council.

Bryncrug School Modern buildings. Water is supplied from the Towyn mains.

30 cases of Measles were notified. 9 cases of Whooping Cough.  
Two cases of Scarlet Fever. 3 cases of Diphtheria.



HOUSINGSECTION D1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year -

- (i) (A) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. 8
- (B) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. 8
- (ii) (A) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. 0
- (B) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. 0
- (iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .
- (iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. 0

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.. .. .

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year -

- (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 10 of the Housing Act 1936.
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
  - (a) By owners .. .. .
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .
- (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts -
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. .. .
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
  - (a) By owners .. .. .
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .
- (C) Proceedings under Section 111 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 -
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .
- (D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936
- (I) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .
- (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit .. .. .

4. Housing Act. 1936. Part IV - Overcrowding.

(A)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year . . . . .	4
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein .. ..	8
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling there .. ..	32
(B)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. .. ..	0
(C)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. .. ..	0
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	0
(D)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. .. ..	0
Total number of formal notices issued. ....			0
Total number of informal notices issued ....			0
Number complied with. ....			0
Total number of New Houses completed :-			
	(a)	By Local Sanitary Authority .. ..	0
	(b)	By private enterprise .. ..	0
Number of plans - new houses, buildings .. ..			0
Visits to <u>Bakehouses</u> .. ..			6
Number of Notices re Defects. ....			0
Visits to <u>Cowsheds</u> .. ..			2
Number of Notices re Defects.. ....			0
Visits to <u>Milk Shops</u> .. ..			2
Number of Notices re Defects. ....			0
Visits to <u>Dairies</u> .. ..			2
Number of Notices re Defects. ....			0
Visits to <u>Slaughter Houses</u> .. ..			3
Number of Notices re Defects. ....			0
Notices re <u>Removal of Ashes</u> .. ....			0
Notices re <u>Removal of Manure</u> . ....			0
Notices re Defective Drains.. ....			2
Number of Visits in cases of <u>Infectious Diseases</u> . ..			6
Number of <u>Houses Disinfected</u> . ....			6

SECTION E: Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY. I again repeat the importance that milk vendors should pay more attention to general cleanliness with regards to cowsheds and dairies. Several cowsheds in the area are not suitable and are overcrowded. The floors are not uniformly cemented for cleansing purposes. Ventilation and light are defective. Milk cows are not groomed, and the teats and uders are not cleansed. Cows are not examined for Tuberculosis - a very important factor if we are to prevent the infection of children with this disease. I emphasise the importance of milk vendors producing accredited milk. There are two vendors in the area supplying T.T. milk. No samples of milk have been sent for analysis by the Local Sanitary Authority. The County Council have undertaken this work for the Ministry of Health. Frequent samples of milk are sent by the local authority for analysis, to test for cleanliness and keeping quality. These reports are very confusing, as samples from various farms vary from Categories A to C month by month. I strongly recommend consumers to boil the milk (except T.T. Milk) until a uniform standard of cleanliness is obtained.



SECTION E: In spection and Supervision of Food (Continued)

Food and Drugs Act: The Chief Constable for the County undertakes this work.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD: No action taken by Local Authority Carcases inspected and condemned - One.

NUTRITION: Children of school age and infants are in some instances below the standard weight, indicating that the best kind of food is not always available. Parents are often at fault in not encouraging more consumption of milk. Advice is given in this subject at the Child Welfare Clinics.

BAKERIES : These are visited periodically. The premises are in instances unsatisfactory as regards ventilation and cleanliness.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. - Nil

SHELL FISH: There are shell fish beds at Aberdovey.

During the year 232 cwts. were sent away for consumption. The layings are not liable for pollution. No action was taken under the Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations 1934 or the Public Health Act, 1932.

- (i) Shell fish taken from layings in the district are sent to Birmingham and Midlands.
- (ii) The layings are situated in the Dwyer Estuary in the sand.

Shell fish are properly cleansed in suitable tanks.

SECTION F: Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES: There was an epidemic of measles 30 cases, during the year. There were two cases of Scarlet Fever. 3 cases of Diptheria. Action has been taken to provide artificial immunisation against Diptheria.

Children immunised under 5 years. .. .. 52%  
Children between 5 and 15 .. .. 95%

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1943.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox.....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	2	1	0
Diptheria.....	3	0	3
Enteric Fever..... (including paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever.....	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	0	0	0
Pneumonia.....	4	0	1
Other diseases generally notifiable.....	0	3	0
Other diseases, notifiable		0	0
Erysipelas.....	2	0	0
Measles.....	30	0	0
Total Tuberculosis death rate.....	0		
Total Phthisis death rate.....	0		
Cancer death rate.....	1.8		

DISINFECTION A Sack Disinfector is used for dealing with infected bedding, clothing, etc. Infected houses are treated with Formalin. (Verminous clothing is also dealt with.

VACCINATION: Primary Vaccinations performed during the year .. 58  
Re- Vaccination. .. 6

It is regretted that some parents refuse to have their children vaccinated.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS: There was no case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS All Tuberculosis cases were notified. These cases are notified by the General Practitioners in the area, some by the School Medical Officer, and others by the County Tuberculosis Officer. A record of these cases is kept by the District Medical Officer of Health, and a weekly statement is sent to the County Medical Officer. Doubtful or early cases are seen in consultation with the Tuberculosis Medical Officer. The homes of tuberculosis patients are inspected by the Local Sanitary Authority. Formalin is used.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

##### New Cases and Mortality during 1943

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 15								
20 -				1				
25 -	1							
35 -	1							
45 - 55								
65 & upwards.								
Total	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

I much appreciate the interest taken by the inhabitants with regard to Diptheria Immunisation, Scabies, and tuberculosis. Two cases of Veneral Disease seen during the year.

(Signed) J.A. DAVIES.  
Medical Officer of Health.

28th July, 1944.